

HIGHLAND MAIN STREET SPECIAL STUDY SESSION
Lincoln Center- Room 116- Highland, Indiana 46322
December 27, 2018 MINUTES

Call to Order

At 5:03 PM, the Highland Main Street (HMS) special study session was called to order by President Dawn Diamantopoulos at Lincoln Center, Room 116, 2450 Lincoln in Highland, Indiana.

Roll Call:

The following were present: Board Members Dawn Diamantopoulos, Lola McKay, Mary Wells, Doug Van Ramshorst, Julie Larson, and Redevelopment Assistant Lance Ryskamp. Board Members Marie Russo, Mario DeGeorge and Darlene Barron were absent. Also present was Kali Rasala, Michael Blejski, Linda Sampar, Renee and Ben Reinhart.

2019 Event & Project Planning

Lance provided the Board with a final draft of a 2019 Action Plan, including the addition of developing a downtown restaurant promotion to attract more foot traffic. He asked that the Board members review in advance of their January 3rd regular meeting.

Community Garden

Lance reviewed his draft community garden memo. He advised that the estimate provided by Tiger Plumbing for getting water accessibility to the 2917 Highway site was \$5,995. He reviewed the "CreatINg Places" state program, which combines crowdfunding and matching grants. He said that the project cost would have to be at a minimum, \$10,000, of which \$5,000 would have raised by crowdfunding, in order to be eligible for a \$5,000 state match. Renee stated that she had recently been involved in a "Go Fund Me" crowdfunding campaign, which was very successful. Lance said that the Highland Community Foundation has agreed to commit \$1,000 in some form or another toward supporting the project. With the draft budget, including water access and the projected cost of 12 raised beds, being currently slightly less than \$10,000, a discussion ensued about any other potential costs, such as hoses, signage, etc. that the project might need. Renee also suggested asking Tiger Plumbing for an estimate of the cost of an in-ground sprinkler system.

Lance asked for more discussion on what the garden's purpose would be. A discussion ensued and the consensus was that the garden would serve two purposes: to assist needy families in Highland with fresh produce, either through direct support or assistance to existing Highland food pantries or organizations like the Northwest Indiana Food Bank; and, second, serve as an education tool for both students in the Highland schools and for adults wanting to learn gardening techniques for use in their own personal home gardens. Renee said she would do some research on existing Highland food pantries and/or food banks.

Both Kali and Linda said they were interested in assisting a Highland Community Garden project, if the site was approved by the Redevelopment Commission

Adjournment

With no further business, the study session adjourned at 6:11 PM.